

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 04587 01 OF 02 151527Z
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INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02
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P R 151445Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7854
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
EUCOM
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 4587

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: ECEVIT BEGINS EFFORTS TO FORM NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT

REF: ANKARA 4556 (DTG 141330 JUN 77)

1. SUMMARY: TURKISH PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE ECEVIT HAS
TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE WILL SEEK TO FORM A ONE-PARTY
GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN A COALITION. THREE PARTIES OF THE
OUTGOING NATIONALIST FRONT GOVERNMENT WARNED THAT NO
GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE APPOINTED UNLESS IT WAS CLEAR THAT
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 04587 01 OF 02 151527Z

IT COULD WIN A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SENATE RESIGNED IN ANTICIPATION OF THE NEW SENATE
LEADERSHIP SELECTION JUNE 16. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FAILED
TO ELECT A SPEAKER. END SUMMARY

2. FOLLOWING HIS JUNE 14 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KORUTURK,
WHO CHARGED HIM WITH THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT,

REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) LEADER ECEVIT MET WITH THE PRESS AND TOLD THEM THAT NOW IT WAS ONLY NECESSARY TO FIND A FEW PEOPLE WHO SHARED THE SAME RESPONSIBLE OUTLOOK AS THE RPP. ECEVIT SAID THAT IF SUCH PEOPLE CANNOT BE FOUND "WHAT WILL HAPPEN IS OBVIOUS. IF A GOVERNMENT IS FORMED SIMILAR TO THE ONE WHICH EXISTED UP UNTIL TODAY... TURKEY WILL NOT ONLY RETURN TO THE PRE-JUNE 5 PERIOD, BUT WILL ENTER A BLACKER AND MORE PAINFUL PERIOD. UP UNTIL JUNE 5 WE HAD A RAY OF HOPE WITHIN US. SINCE THIS TIME THERE WILL BE NO RAY OF HOPE, OUR PEOPLE MIGHT NOT EASILY TOLERATE THESE PAINS AND OUR DEMOCRACY MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE PRESSURES." ECEVIT REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE WOULD DO ALL HE COULD TO PREVENT SUCH A SITUATION. ANSWERING A JOURNALIST'S QUESTION, ECEVIT SAID THAT HE BELIEVED "THE MOST VALID AND EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS WHICH FACE US, ESPECIALLY OF THIS MAGNITUDE, CAN ONLY BE A GOVERNMENT WHICH THE RPP ALL BY ITSELF, NATURALLY WITH THE PARLIAMENT'S SUPPORT BUT ALL BY ITSELF, WILL ESTABLISH."

3. JUNE 15 DAILY MILLIYET CARRIES AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH ECEVIT BY ITS EDITOR ABDI IPEKCI IN WHICH ECEVIT AGAIN STATED THAT A ONE-PARTY RPP GOVERNMENT WOULD BEST BE ABLE TO SOLVE TURKEY'S PROBLEMS. ALTHOUGH NOT TOTALLY DISMISSING THE POSSIBILITY OF A COALITION, ECEVIT SAID THAT "BEFORE THINKING ABOUT AN ALTERNATIVE TO A SINGLE-PARTY GOVERNMENT, I FEEL THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO COMPLETELY DETERMINE ALL THE POSSIBILITIES ON THAT SUBJECT....EVEN THE BEST COALITION GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IN FINDING A RAPID SOLUTION TO (TURKEY'S) URGENT PROBLEMS." ECEVIT STATED UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 ANKARA 04587 01 OF 02 151527Z

IN THE INTERVIEW THAT EVEN A MINORITY GOVERNMENT WOULD BE BETTER THAN A COALITION AND NOTED THAT IT MIGHT NOT REPEAT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE AHEAD OF TIME IF A PROPOSED GOVERNMENT COULD WIN A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. ECEVIT SAID THAT HE WAS SURE THAT MANY MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BE ABLE "TO OVERCOME PARTISANSHIP AND MAKE SACRIFICES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COUNTRY;" HE ADDED, HOWEVER, "A DEFINITE TEST OF HOW TRUE THIS HOPE OF MINE IS CAN ONLY BE GIVEN BY A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE."

4. ELSEWHERE IN JUNE 15 DAILY MILLIYET, IPEKCI WROTE THAT THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO SIGNS THAT ECEVIT WOULD BE ABLE TO GET MAJORITY SUPPORT FOR A ONE-PARTY GOVERNMENT AND THAT IT WAS CLEAR THAT ECEVIT PLANNED TO FACE A CONFIDENCE VOTE WITHOUT HAVING GUARANTEED IN ADVANCE A CLEAR MAJORITY.

5. JUNE 15 PRESS CARRIED STATEMENTS BY LEADERS OF THE JUSTICE PARTY (JP), NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP), AND NATIONAL

SALVATION PARTY (NSP), ALL WARNING AGAINST FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO WIN A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. JP LEADER, CARETAKER PRIMIN DEMIREL STATED: "THE RPP DOES NOT HAVE A MAJORITY IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WHICH WOULD ENABLE IT TO WIN A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. CAN ONE FORM A GOVERNMENT WHICH IS CERTAIN TO FAIL TO WIN A CONFIDENCE VOTE?... IN THE EVENT OF THE RPP CHAIRMAN'S FORMING A GOVERNMENT WHICH CLEARLY IS GOING TO FAIL TO WIN A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SUCH A GOVERNMENT WILL BE APPOINTED." NAP CHAIRMAN TURKES IN A PRESS CONFERENCE SAID: "I DO NOT VIEW AS NORMAL THE FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT WHICH DOES NOT APPEAR CAPABLE OF WINNING A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. THIS WOULD CREATE AN ILLEGAL SITUATION."

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 04587 02 OF 02 151550Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 ANKARA 4587

NSP SECRETARY GENERAL ASILTURK SAID IN A PRESS RELEASE: "THE INDISPENSABLE REQUIREMENT OF SOVEREIGNTY, WHICH BELONGS TO THE

NATION, IS THAT THE EXECUTIVE, THAT IS THE GOVERNMENT, SHOULD ENJOY THE SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY OF PARLIAMENT. IT IS DEFINITELY AGAINST OUR CONSTITUTION FOR A GOVERNMENT TO BE PUT FORWARD WHICH IS NOT CERTAIN TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OR WHICH IS BOUND TO FAIL TO OBTAIN THE APPROVAL OF THIS MAJORITY. THE PRESIDENT, WHO HAS TAKEN AN OATH OF LOYALTY TO DEMOCRACY, CANNOT POSSIBLY ALLOW SUCH A PRACTICE." (COMMENT: IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER PRESIDENT KORUTURK WOULD ACCEPT A CABINET WITHOUT ADVANCE EVIDENCE THAT

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 04587 02 OF 02 151550Z

IT COULD WIN A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. THERE ARE CONFLICTING PRECEDENTS. IN 1974, THE IRMAK GOVERNMENT (WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY FAILED TO WIN A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE) WAS ACCEPTED BY PRESIDENT KORUTURK; HOWEVER, IN 1972 THE CABINET FORMED BY URGUPLU WAS REJECTED BY PRESIDENT SUNAY DUE TO LACK OF EVIDENCE OF SUFFICIENT SUPPORT IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.)

6. SPEAKING AT A MEETING OF THE NSP GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD, NSP CHAIRMAN ERBAKAN HINTED THAT HIS PARTY MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR A COALITION WITH THE RPP WHEN HE SAID, IN AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO NUMEROUS STATEMENTS BY JP LEADER DEMIREL, THAT: "A CONFUSION OF CONCEPTS HAS BEEN CREATED IN TURKEY BY CLASSIFYING PEOPLE INTO "LEFTISTS" AND "NATIONALISTS" NO GOOD CAN COME FROM CREATING CHAOS THROUGH PLAYING WITH WORDS." IN HIS SPEECH, ERBAKAN ATTACKED THE JUSTICE PARTY AND COMPLAINED THAT ALL PARTIES HAD FOCUSED THEIR ATTACKS ON THE NSP DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. JUNE 15 HURRIYET QUOTES NSP SECRETARY GENERAL ASILTURK AS SAYING THAT THE NSP WILL DEMAND MUCH MORE THAN BEFORE IN RETURN FOR PARTICIPATION IN A GOVERNMENT. ASILTURK REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE WAS AT THE HEAD OF THE NSP'S DEMANDS.

7. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, WHICH MET TO ELECT ITS NEW SPEAKER JUNE 14, WAS UNABLE TO DO SO BECAUSE NO CANDIDATE WAS PUT FORTH BY ANY PARTY. ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER WAS THEREFORE POSTPONED UNTIL JUNE 15; HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT ANY CANDIDATE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING JUNE 15 EITHER. PRESS REPORTS SPECULATED THAT THE MAJOR PARTIES WERE WITHHOLDING DECISIONS ON SPEAKER CANDIDATES IN THE HOPES OF USING THE POSITION AS A BARGAINING COUNTER IN TALKS WITH PROSPECTIVE COALITION PARTNERS.

8. SENATE PRESIDENT ARIBURUN SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION AFTER THE SENATE VOTED TO ELECT NEW LEADERSHIP WHICH WOULD REFLECT THE CHANGED COMPOSITION OF THAT BODY AS A RESULT OF THE JUNE 5 ELECTIONS (IN WHICH THE RPP FOR THE FIRST TIME

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PAGE 03 ANKARA 04587 02 OF 02 151550Z

ACHIEVED A MAJORITY OF THE ELECTED MEMBERS). SENATORS BELONGING TO THE JUSTICE PARTY, WHICH HAD HELD A PLURALITY BEFORE THE ELECTIONS, HAD MAINTAINED THAT THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP SHOULD REMAIN UNTIL EXPIRATION OF ITS TERM IN NOVEMBER. THE ELECTIONS WILL REPORTEDLY TAKE PLACE JUNE 16.

9. PRESS REPORTED THAT ECEVIT BEGAN HIS SEARCH FOR A MAJORITY BY CONFERRING JUNE 14 WITH THREE EX-RPP DEPUTIES, WHO WERE REELECTED AS INDEPENDENTS. IN A JOINT STATEMENT AFTERWARD, THE THREE INDEPENDENTS STATED THAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO SUPPORT A GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD SPEED UP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR REGION (EASTERN TURKEY) BUT THAT THEY COULD NOT SUPPORT ANY GOVERNMENT WHICH INCLUDED THE NAP. THE FOURTH INDEPENDENT, ALSO A FORMER JP DEPUTY, ALSO REPORTEDLY REJECTED ANY GOVERNMENT WHICH INCLUDED THE NAP.
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